

In more detail, Claim 1 is a system claim that includes the features of the scanner connection apparatus of Claim 6 and the scanner control apparatus of Claim 8. As such, Claim 1 is a linking claim that links both the Group II and Group III claims together with the Group I claims, at least with regard to Claims 1 to 12.

On the other hand, Claim 14 is directed to a scanner connection apparatus that is slightly different from that of Claim 6, while Claim 16 is directed to a scanner control apparatus that is slightly different from Claim 8. Claim 13 is a system claim that includes both the scanner connection apparatus of Claim 14 and the scanner control apparatus of Claim 16. Thus, Claim 13 is a linking claim that links these claims and therefore, Claims 13 to 19 may be seen to correspond to another group.

In the Office Action, however, it is admitted that the foregoing hypothetical first group (Claims 1 to 12) and the foregoing hypothetical second group (Claims 13 to 19) are related vis a vis Claims 1 and 13 being included in the same group (Group I). Thus, in light of the foregoing, all of Claims 1 to 19 should be examined in the same application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and issuance of an action on the merits for all of Claims 1 to 19 are respectfully requested.

Applicants also wish to point out that a Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently herewith to make some minor changes to the claims.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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